

**HERNIA: Anatomy, Etiology, Symptoms, Diagnosis, Differential Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Treatment.** By Leigh F. Watson, M.D., F.I.C.S. Third edition. Cloth. Price, \$13.50. Pp. 732, with 323 illustrations by Helen Lorraine, Willard C. Shepard and Ralph Sweet. C. V. Mosby Co., 3207 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 3, 1948.

This book is an excellent treatise on the subject of hernia wherein the author admirably discusses all features such as the historical, embryological, anatomical, clinical and operative repair of the many different herniae found in the body. The medical drawings by Helen Lorraine, Willard C. Shepard and Ralph Sweet are as outstanding as those found in any surgical treatise. By means of these illustrations and succinct descriptions, the author takes the reader through the consecutive steps in the operative repair of hernia.

Why he devotes seventy pages to the injection treatment of hernia, a procedure which is of questionable or no value, is hard to say.

This book is highly recommended to all general surgeons, and to those who wish to have the aspect of all types of hernia presented in a single volume.

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**BIOCHEMISTRY OF THE TEETH.** By Henry M. Leicester, Ph.D., Professor of Biochemistry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, 1949. \$5.00.

This book is divided into eight informative chapters. The first chapter describes the chemical composition of the parts of the tooth, discusses variations in composition, and critically reviews the chemical methods. The basic apatite structure of tooth minerals is considered in detail, and earlier contradictions are resolved. In the second chapter, physical properties of teeth are discussed under headings of density, hardness, radiopacity, solubility, optical properties, fluorescence, electrical resistance and permeability. Chapter 3 describes the processes involved in the development of the tooth, including both histological and biochemical factors. Mineral metabolism and effects of diets and of ingestion of various substances, including fluorine, make up Chapter 4; Chapter 5 describes the effect of vitamins and Chapter 6 the effect of hormones on the developing tooth. Chapter 7 is devoted to a description of the dynamic chemical processes taking place in erupted teeth. The final chapter is devoted to the biochemical factors in caries formation. A critical appraisal is given of acid formation by *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and other organisms, plaque formation, saliva, general body metabolism, diet, vitamins, especially fluorine, activity of the protein matrix of the tooth, and still other factors in the production and control of caries.

The book is interestingly written and logically arranged; the author attempts to give opposing views on controversial points and to resolve the contradictions. Each chapter includes an extensive bibliography related to the subject matter of the chapter.

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**EMERGENCIES IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.** Edited by C. Allan Birch, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician, Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, 113 illustrations, 8 full color plates. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1948. \$7.00.

This is a well prepared collection of medical essays on medical emergencies which the author defines as a condition or circumstance of a patient which calls for immediate action other than surgery. It is quite elementary, though thorough, and would be a fine book for the young general practitioner or a man in emergency service. There are 18 contributors to this book, all well qualified men who have written separate chapters on specific emergencies in their field. Every type of emergency that can be thought of is included in this text and the treatment as recommended by

the authors is very good. It is all-inclusive from the emergencies in childhood to the making out of wills on the deathbed. It would be an excellent book for medical students to have on their shelves.

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**AN ELEMENTARY ATLAS OF CARDIOGRAPHY—An Introduction to Electrocardiography and X-Ray Examination of the Heart.** By H. Wallace-Jones, M.D., Honorary Consulting Physician, Royal Liverpool United Hospital; E. Noble Chamberlain, M.D., Honorary Physician, Royal Liverpool United Hospital; and E. L. Rubin, M.D., Honorary Radiologist, Royal Liverpool United Hospital. Incorporating the Third Edition of *Electrocardiograms* with 100 illustrations. John Wright and Sons, Ltd., Bristol, 1948.

This book is a very elementary discussion of electrocardiography that scarcely warrants treatment in the form of a book. There is no discussion of the precordial leads. The discussion of each electrocardiographic pattern and arrhythmia is so brief as to merely "scratch the surface." In addition, there are some errors; for example on page 12, it is stated that the P-R interval corresponds with the time taken by the excitation wave to pass through the bundle of His. The authors state that the average QRS interval is 0.05 to 0.06 seconds, which are rather low figures.

The illustrations on bundle branch block imply that axis deviation is important in the diagnosis of left as compared to right bundle branch block and do not adequately discuss the modern opinion.

Other examples could be cited. In the discussion of Preponderance, the authors did not adequately differentiate left ventricular hypertrophy from left axis deviation.

The section on the Cardiac Radiology is far superior. The illustrations are excellent and the text is quite clear.

In general, the book may be recommended for its section on Radiology but other primers of Electrocardiography, such as that by Burch and Winsor, are far superior.

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**DIABETIC MENUS, MEALS AND RECIPES.** By Mrs. Betty M. West, with introduction by Russel F. Rypins, M.D. Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York, 1949. 254 pages. \$2.95.

Mrs. West in this volume has performed a real service to all diabetics. In her dual capacity as patient and housewife she has computed the food values of a large number of standard household recipes and indicated the carbohydrate, protein and fat values of suitable individual servings of the completed whole. She also illustrates how these servings may be included in completely planned meals. All the foods mentioned, the recipes and the planned meals, are equally suitable for other members of the family. The non-diabetic members may supplement these meals by extra servings, additional bread and even sugar if they choose. The preparation of special foods or meals for the patient alone can be easily avoided by following the author's suggestions. There are chapters on cocktails, soups, salads, meats and seafood, vegetables, breads, muffins and pastry, soybeans, sauces and salad dressings, egg recipes and desserts. There are also adequate chapters on the canning of all the major fruits and vegetables without sugar.

The diabetic world is divided into two approximately equal groups: those who follow the classic line of grouping fruits and vegetables into 5, 10, 15 and 20 per cent categories as to carbohydrate content, and the "Moderns" who subdivide these items into 3, 6, 9, 12 per cent and other groupings. Mrs. West belongs to the old school. For practical purposes it makes little real difference which system one uses and few patients will be confused regardless of their training and mathematical habits.

It is a pleasure to recommend this book to all diabetics and to those who advise and teach these patients.